

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steven Koehler on 7/15/2009. The application has been amended as follows:

In line 3 of claim 1, delete "the steps of".

In line 3 of claim 19, delete "the steps of".

In lines 2-3 of claim 23, delete ", with a processor".

In line 5 of claim 23, insert – with a processor – after "generating".

In lines 1-2 of claim 31, delete ", with a processor".

In line 4 of claim 31, insert – with a processor – after "accessing".

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-34 are allowed over prior art of record. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Smadja (Applicant's submitted prior art entitled: Retrieving Collocations from Text: Xtract), herein referred as Smadja discloses a method of generating synonymous collocations comprising the steps of: extracting collocations from a monolingual corpus (*section 5, pages 150-151; discussion of the*

three analysis stages that are used to generate collocations); parsing an input sentence into collocations (*section 6, page 151*). Smadja et al. (Publication entitled: Translation Collocations for Bilingual Lexicons: A Statistical Approach), herein referred as Smadja et al. teach the step of translating the extracted collocation into a plurality of collocation candidates in a target language. A collocation candidate that is highly correlated with the source-language collocation is selected (*first paragraph on page 2*). Both Smadja and Smadja et al. fail to specifically disclose generating candidate synonymous collocations from the extracted collocations; selecting synonymous collocations from the candidate synonymous collocations; obtaining synonymous collocations selected as a function of translation information; selecting at least one synonymous collocation for said at least one collocation; providing an output based at least in part on the synonymous collocations; and generating an output comprising a sentence based on at least in part on the at least one synonymous collocation. Furthermore, it would have not been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Smadja and/or Smadja et al. in order to obtain the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 1-34 are allowed over prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUYEN X. VO whose telephone number is (571)272-7631. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Huyen X Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626

7/16/2009
